

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 /070 W

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R 250939Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0034

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 12766

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KE

SUBJECT: MOI BACKERS PUT OUT FEELERS FOR SUPPORT

1. SUMMARY: IN WHAT WAS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO GET ASSURANCES OF WESTERN SUPPORT FOR MOI CANDIDACY, THREE MP'S CLOSE TO PRESIDENT INITIATED MEETING WITH POLOFFS FROM U.S., UK, FRENCH AND FRG EMBASSIES. NO SUCH ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN, WITH ALL CLAIMING NOMINATION OF PRESIDENT STRICTLY KENYAN AFFAIR. HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS RAISED BY MP'S REVEALED THEY WERE INTERESTED IN GETTING A FEEL FOR HOW WESTERN GOVERNMENTS MIGHT REACT TO VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES, INCLUDING SKIRTING OR AMENDING CONSTITUTION OR REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST POLITICAL OPPONENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE MP'S CLOSE TO PRESIDENT MOI ASKED TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM U.S., UK, FRENCH AND FRG EMBASSIES EVENING AUGUST 24. MEETING ARRANGED BY DR. PETER MURIUKI (NAIROBI CONSTITUENCY) AND FRG EMBOFF. MUIUKI HAD STUDIED IN GERMANY AND MAINTAINED CLOSE TIES WITH FRG EMBASSY. OTHER MP'S WERE ISAAC SALATT AND M.K. KEINO, BOTH KALENJIN(MOI'S TRIBE) WITH SALATT HAVING  
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BEEN FORMER PERSONAL SECRETARY TO MOI. THRUST OF MPS' APPROACH WAS TO SEEK ASSURANCE OF WESTERN SUPPORT FOR MOI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY AND TO ASCERTAIN HOW WESTERN GOVERNMENTS MIGHT REACT TO CERTAIN SITUATIONS WHICH MP'S FELT COULD OCCUR.

3. AT OUTSET MP'S EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WESTERN SUPPORT

FOR KENYA MIGHT ERODE NOW THAT KENYATTA HAS DIED. THEY BASED APPEAL FOR CONTINUED WESTERN SUPPORT ON ALLEGATION THERE WAS COMMUNIST INTERNAL THREAT AND THAT KENYA WAS SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES SUPPORTED BY SOVIET UNION.

4. WITH UK AND U.S. REPS TAKING LEAD, CONCERTED REPOSE WAS THAT WE ALL WERE GREATLY PLEASED THAT KENYATTA SUCCESSION HAS GONE SMOOTHLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY AND THAT WESTERN SUPPORT FOR KENYA WAS NOT BASED SOLELY ON KENYATTA BUT ON KENYATTA'S LEGACY WHICH WAS CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC KENYA. WE CONTINUED THAT WE DID NOT SEE COMMUNIST THREAT FROM WITHIN AND THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR US TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ANY WAY IN CHOICE OF PRESIDENT.

5. IN RESPONSE TO ALLEGED EXTERNAL SECURITY THREAT, EMBOFF EMPHASIZED US CONCERN FOR KENYA SECURITY, CITING F-5 PROGRAM AND RECENT HILL MISSION. MP'S EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

6. IN SERIES OF HYPOTHETICAL QUESTIONS AIMED AT GETTING FEEL FOR WHAT WESTERN REACTION MIGHT BE, MP'S ASKED HOW WE WOULD VIEW PARLIAMENT CHOOSING NEXT PRESIDENT AND WOULD WE WISH TO SEE ALL POLITICAL DETAINEES RELEASED. WE REPLIED THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT THAT GOK RESPECT THE CONSTITUTION IN UPCOMING NOMINATION OF PRESIDENT (NOMINATION BY PARTY RATHER THAN PARLIAMENT) BECAUSE KENYA'S CONFIDENTIAL

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RESPECT FOR DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS CONTRIBUTED SO IMPORTANTLY TO KENYA'S EXCELLENT REPUTATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ON QUESTION OF POLITICAL DETAINEES, ANSWER WAS THAT OUR JUDGEMENTS WERE BASED ON RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS SUCH AS RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL, DUE PROCESS, ETC., BUT THAT IT WAS NOT FOR US TO PREJUDGE INNOCENCE OR GUILT OF DETAINEES. MP'S THEN ASKED HOW WE MIGHT VIEW AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION, TO WHICH WE REPLIED THAT THIS WAS AN INTERNAL KENYAN MATTER BUT THAT WE CERTAINLY WOULD BE DISTURBED IF WE SAW THE CONSTITUTION AMENDED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ERODE HUMAN RIGHTS AND KENYA'S DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

7. WHILE MP'S REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON THEIR VIEWS OF CURRENT AND FUTURE SITUATION, THEY EVENTUALLY COMMENTED ON UPCOMING KANU NOMINATION OF PRESIDENT. THEY THOUGHT KANU WOULD TRY TO GET BACK THE SAME 1,600 DELEGATES WHO CAME TO NAIROBI IN THE SPRING OF 1977 FOR ABORTIVE NATIONAL PARTY ELECTIONS, AND THEY FELT CERTAIN MORE OF THOSE DELEGATES NOW FAVORED MOI THAN PREVIOUSLY. MPS ALSO CLAIMED THAT ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF MPS ARE BEHIND MOI. THEY ALSO OPINED THAT KANY DELEGATES CONFERENCE WOULD NOMINATE ONLY ONE CANDIDATE (THIS CHECKS WITH EARLIER STATEMENT

BY ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARLES NJONJO). THEY ALSO BELIEVED DELEGATES CONFERENCE WOULD ELECT NEW NATIONAL OFFICERS(OUT OF NINE POSTS FIVE ARE NOW VACANT) AND THAT THERE WOULD BE A MOI SLATE FOR NATIONAL OFFICER ELECTIONS.

8. COMMENT: MPS DID NOT IMPRESS EMBOFF AS PARTICULARLY BRIGHT OR EVEN WELL VERSED IN KENYAN CONSTITUTION. THEY ARE STRONG SUPPORTERS OF PRESIDENT MOI AND MAY WELL HAVE OVERSTATED MOI'S SUPPORT BOTH IN KANY AND PARLIAMENT. THERE IS MUCH TALK ABOUT TOWN THAT FINMIN KIBAKI HAS WIDE SUPPORT AND GOOD CHANCE TO WIN NOMINATION SHOULD HE WISH TO CHALLENGE MOI. A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE KENYATTA FAMILY RECENTLY CONFIDED THAT HE WAS QUITE SURE THE FAMILY WOULD LIE LOW DURING UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION.  
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9. IT LIKELY THAT INITIATIVE FOR MEETING WITH EMBOFFS CAME FROM HIGHER AUTHORITY. MPS CERTAINLY DID NOT GET SATISFACTION ON SUPPORT FOR MOI CANDIDACY. MESSAGE OF NEGATIVE REACTION TO POSSIBLE CURBS ON CONSTITUTION OR CRACKDOWN ON OPPONENTS WAS MADE VERY CLEAR AND MAY HAVE MODERATING EFFECT SHOULD SUCH ACTIONS BE CONTEMPLATED BY MOI GROUP.  
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## Message Attributes

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